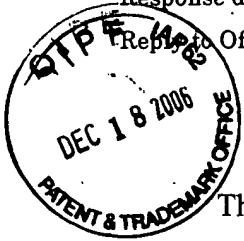Application No.: 10/780,271
Response dated: December 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 14, 2006

REMARKS

This is responsive to the office action date August 14, 2006. A response was due on November 14, 2006 without an extension of time. Therefore, a one month extension of time to move the response date to December 14, 2006 is enclosed.

Claims 1, 3-19, 22-34, 36-41, and 43-56 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 22-26, 33, 40. and 56 have been amended.

The Examiner has questioned two references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement. A corrected Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed herewith. Actually the numbers of these references were cited correctly. With respect to US patent number 6,663,892, the patentee is Thassu and the patent was published December 16, 2003. With respect to WO 02/41170 A2, Meier is the inventor, but the applicant is Interlegis Inc. We have also enclosed a copy of the Interlegis PCT publication.

The drawings, enclosed herewith, are responsive to the Request to Correct the Drawings, and should be acceptable.

Claims 20-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non statutory subject matter. Claim 20 which was the independent claim, along with dependent claim 21 have been cancelled since subject matter of these claims is part of the remaining claims. Further, the claims dependent from 20 have been either cancelled or the dependency changed to amended them to depend from Claim 1.

Claims 1, 6, 14, 19, 33-34, 40 and 56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Kim et al (US patent application publication number 2003/0120729).

Claim 1 was not rejected under §102, but claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. The claims as now amended incorporate the limitation in Claim 2, and so are distinguishable from Kim and not anticipated. Since the Examiner acknowledges that the limitation in Claim 2 is not anticipated by Kim and this limitation has been incorporated into independent Claims 1, 33, 40 and 56, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection with respect to claims 1, 6, 14, 19, 33-34, 40 and 56 is respectively requested.

Claims 2-5, 7-13, 15-18, 20-32, 35-39, and 41-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al in view of Ferguson et al. (US patent number 6,820,094).

The present invention is directed to a data-management system and device to be provided to a digital computer terminal for generating a link in real time between an electronic document opened in a computer application and a target document. The digital computer terminal includes a computer readable memory and a data-capture device, while the data-management system includes data-capture logic and device for controlling capture of electronic data by the data-capture device, target-document logic for generating the target document from the electronic data, which represents an information object captured by a data-capture device, and link-generating logic for substantially simultaneously storing the target document in the computer readable memory and generating the link to the target document in the electronic document in real time.

The present invention also provides a computer application for linking a portion of an electronic document to a target document stored as electronic data representing an information object in a computer accessible memory. The computer application includes link-generating logic for generating a link to the target document in the electronic document; and data-management logic for transmitting the electronic document and the target document to a data storage device, wherein the data-management logic automatically updates a path of the link to render the link operable following the transmission.

The present invention also provides a data-management system for generating a plurality of links to target documents in an electronic document. The data-management system includes means for creating and editing the electronic document, means for generating a plurality of target documents from electronic data captured by a data-capture device, means for assigning a sequential identifier to each of the plurality of target documents as the target documents are generated, means for storing the plurality of captured target documents in a computer readable memory, and means for generating a link at a plurality of user-selected locations in the electronic document to the plurality of captured target documents.

The present invention also provides a system for linking a target document to a portion of an electronic document in real time. The system includes a computer application for generating and editing the electronic document; and link-generating logic operable with the computer application for generating a link to the target document, wherein the target document is an electronic reproduction of a hardcopy document and is to be generated by scanning the hardcopy document with an optical data-capture device, further wherein the link is to be generated at approximately the same time as the captured target

document is to be saved, and further wherein the computer application is one of a group consisting of a spreadsheet, word processor, database, presentation application, and any combination thereof.

The present invention allows for multi-page documents to be created in several ways;

1.   A scanner with an automatic document feeder or ADF

2.   A scanner without an ADF, by scanning the pages in one at a time

3.   Copying and/or Pasting data, which can be done multiple times

4.   Opening existing documents, multiple documents can be opened one at a time

5.   Any combination of the above methods

Kim et al., US Patent Publication No. 2003/0120729, is directed to a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol server (HTTP) server for an input device in which when an image is input and a file for the image is created for access by the server, a Hyper Text Markup Language file (or HTML) link to the file is automatically generated by which a web browser can retrieve the file over a TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) network. Kim refers to the creation of an HTML link only using an HTTP server over a TCP/IP network. Kim describes creating a link to an electronic file that can be opened in a web browser and describes creating links in an HTML page. Kim describes only a single link..

The present invention is different in that a link is not limited to HTML and can include C, Basic, Java, Assembler, and the like. The present invention does not require an HTTP server, and can operate self-contained on a stand-alone PC (no network required), or over a network of any type – TCP/IP, IPX/SPX, Banyan's Vines, AppleTalk, DLC, etc. The present invention creates links in a spreadsheet, word processing document, database, or flowchart and can create multiple links in the same process required to create one link. The present invention also creates a link to any type of electronic document, regardless of what application created the document, and regardless of what application is required to view the document. Thus, the present invention goes beyond simple document management applications, since its main purpose is preparing documents with supporting links to be transmitted electronically while maintaining the operability of the links.

Ferguson et al., US Patent No. 6,820,094 is directed to a computer-based electronic document and/or paper-based document management application program that provides an efficient way to

automatically import, index, categorize, store, search, retrieve, manipulate and archive electronic documents. The term "browser" used in Ferguson is not to be confused with a web browser that views HTML documents. The browser in Ferguson's case is simply the term they chose to describe this particular function of their document management application that allows you to view or browse the documents included in the database. Ferguson use of the term is in the context of removing a record from a database. Ferguson's description of a browser is not as an application add-in to an existing application that creates source documents, it is the application. Further, Ferguson describes only an application for managing electronic documents but does not describe the preparation of an electronic document that includes links to supporting documentation with the ability to distribute electronically (via email, floppy disk, cd-rom, etc

Ferguson describes a generic, stand-alone document management system that is based on a database. It keeps track of where documents are, but does not link to them. To view stored documents, you must browse the database using the tools provided by the system and select the appropriate document. Ferguson does not suggest updating links because the system does not use linking technology or suggest updating the path to the document. Ferguson simply suggests updating the data storage file (STG file), in effect, the database, which is used to hold attribute information regarding the target document. As such, Ferguson is a different system and one would not be motivated to modify the teachings of Kim with the teachings of Ferguson since they have different purposes.

Further regarding Ferguson, there is no source document involved as is the case with the present invention which creates a link internal to a source document directly to a target electronic document. Ferguson simply describes a hierarchical storage method. It does not describe it in the context of retrieving and organizing target documents for the purpose of distributing an associated source document. Ferguson describes printing documents contained in a database, not the underlying documents associated with a link embedded in a source document. Ferguson describes a multi-page document being created from a single source using a scanner with an Automatic Document Feeder (ADF) attached, and not a system for creating a plurality of links with a plurality of documents as does the present invention.

The present invention allows a report or document to be transmitted electronically to embed a

link within the report (or document) that leads to the relevant supporting documentation. One would not look to Ferguson to modify Kim since Ferguson describes a stand-alone application that does not provide for transmitting electronically a report or document with embedded links to supporting documentation. The report or document referenced is not limited and can be a word processor, spreadsheet, database, presentation, application, web browser financial planning application, mapping application, and publishing application.

The present invention uses document management applications to create links in reports to the images managed by the document management application. If a document management application is not available, the present invention has the ability to act as a document management application in regards to the capturing and organizing of the supporting documents associated with the links. After creating a link, the present invention manages the link regardless of how that link was created – whether it was imported from a document management application or whether the document was scanned.

For the above stated reasons, the amended claims would not be obvious from Kim, nor would they be obvious from any combination with Ferguson. There is no suggestion or motivation to combine Kim with Ferguson. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

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